IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 11 and 15 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A control valve comprising: a housing, a spool, said spool rotatably contained within said housing, said housing defining a fluid entry port, a first fluid exit port and a second fluid exit port, said fluid entry and said first and second fluid exit ports in fluid communication with said spool, said spool defining a plurality of parallel channels therealong, a plurality of o-rings, said o-rings spaced in said housing around said spool, said housing defining a plurality of grooves, said grooves axially spaced along said duct between said o-rings, said spool threadably mounted in said housing whereby rotating said spool in one direction will allow fluid to flow from said entry port through said channels beneath one of said o-rings to said second exit port and rotating said spool in the opposite direction will cause fluid to bypass said second exit port.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The control valve of claim 1 further comprising a handle, said handle attached to said spool.

rings, a spool, said spool positioned in said housing in selective rotatable engagement with said o-rings, said spool defining a plurality of channels, said channels longitudinally extending along said spool, said spool positioned within said o-rings, said housing further defining an entry port and first and second exit ports, said entry port and said exit ports communicating with said spool duct, said first and said second exit ports spaced axially along said spool duct, said spool threadably joined to said housing, said spool rotatable to allow continual flow of a liquid within said channels from said entry port to said first exit port and for selective flow of liquid to said second exit port.

12. (Previously Amended) The control valve of claim 11 wherein said spool is formed from an acetyl polymer.

13. (Original) The control valve of claim 11 wherein said housing is formed of a polymeric material.

14. (Original) The control valve of claim 10 wherein said fluid entry port and said first fluid exit ports are connected to a water purification loop.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of purifying water utilizing a control valve having a housing with a rotatable spool, a plurality of o-rings mounted in the

housing around the spool, a plurality of grooves defined in the housing and surrounding the spool, said spool defining a plurality of ~~grooves~~ channels which will allow liquid to pass beneath the o-rings during selective spool movement within said housing, said spool in fluid communication with an entry port and a pair of exit ports, said method comprising the steps of:

a) passing water through a purification loop;
b) directing the purified water to the control valve within the loop;
c) circulating the purified water through the control valve;
d) selectively rotating the spool to allow water to flow through the ~~grooves~~ channels beneath the o-rings; and
e) diverting purified water within the control valve to an end use.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of passing any undiverted water within the control valve back to the purification loop.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~17~~ 15 wherein rotating the spool comprises the step of manually rotating the spool.



REMARKS:

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1, 3-8, 10-16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs. Applicant has now modified independent claims 1, 10 and 15 in an effort to place the claims in condition for allowance by including the axially spaced housing grooves which reside between the o-rings along the spool duct.

Applicant believes with the modifications made to the claims that all applicant's claims are now sufficiently clear and defined under §112. Accordingly, the §112 rejection should be withdrawn. In addition, applicant believes that the specification and drawings are sufficient to permit those skilled in the art to carry out the claimed invention.

Claim allowance is therefore solicited at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Mail Stop Non Fee Amendment, Group Art Unit 1724, Attention: Examiner Ivars C. Cintins (8 pages including cover letter) to Fax No. (703) 872-9306 on this 02nd day of April, 2004.

Walter L. Beavers